# **DECLARATION**

I, SEO, Byung-ki of HANOL LAW OFFICES IP GROUP of 6th Floor, City Air Tower 159-9 Samsung-dong, Kangnam-ku, Seoul 135-973, KOREA, do hereby solemnly declare that I translated Application No. 10-2004-0006352 from Korean into English for the purpose of filing the aforementioned application in Europe. I further declare that the translation is to the best of my knowledge and belief a true and correct translation into the English language.

Date: January 05, 2009

Signature B. 16, Se00

## **KOREAN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE**

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Application Number: 10-2004-0006352

Filing Date:

January 30, 2004

Applicants:

Korea Research Institute of Bioscience

and Biotechnology

**COMMISSIONER** 

[Document] Patent Application

[Classification] Patent

[To] The Commissioner of the Korean Intellectual Property Office [Filing Date] February 26, 2004

[English title of Invention] A NOVEL HANSENULA POLYMORPHA GENE CODING FOR ALPHA 1,6-MANNOSYLTRANSFERASE AND PROCESS FOR THE PRODUCTION RECOMBINANT GLYCOPROTEINS WITH HANSENULA DEFICIENT IN THE SAME GENE a

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## [Deposit of Microorganism]

[Depository] KCTC

[Accession number] 10583BP

[The Date of Deposit] 2004. 01. 15

## [Deposit of Microorganism]

[Depository] KCTC

[Accession number] 10584BP

[The Date of Deposit] 2004. 01. 15

## [Nucleic acid and amino acid sequence listing]

[Number of sequence listing]

14

[Electronic readable document of sequence listing]

Attached

[Submitting Reason] We hereby file this application in accordance with the provision of Article 42 under the Patent Act and request for examination in accordance with provision of Article 60 under the Patent Act.

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#### [Commission]

[Basic fee]

45

38,000 Won

[Additional fee] 0 0 Won
[Priority Claiming fee] 0 0 Won
[Examination Request fee] 0 0 Won
[Total] 38,000 Won
[Reason for Exemption] Federal Laboratory
[Commission after Exemption] 19,000 Won
[Attached document] 1. Two receipts in the Case of an Original Deposit.

### Sepcification

#### Invention Title

A NOVEL HANSENULA POLYMORPHA GENE CODING FOR ALPHA 1,6-MANNOSYLTRANSFERASE AND PROCESS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF RECOMBINANT GLYCOPROTEINS WITH HANSENULA POLYMORPHA MUTANT STRAIN DEFICIENT IN THE SAME GENE

#### Abstract

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Disclosed are a novel Hansenula polymorpha gene coding for  $\alpha$ -1,6-mannosyltransferase initiating outer chain elongation, an H. polymorpha mutant strain having a deficiency in the gene, and a process for producing a recombinant glycoprotein using such a mutant strain.

## 10 Brief Description of the Drawings

Fig. 1 shows a nucleotide sequence of *H. polymorpha HpOCH2* gene and its predicted amino acid sequence, wherein a transmembrane spanning region is underlined, and an amino acid sequence corresponding to a DXD element is bold and underlined;

Fig. 2 is a multiple alignment of amino acid sequences of Ochl protein analogues of *H. polymorpha* and other yeast strains (HpOch2p: *H. polymorpha* Och2 protein; HpOch1p: *H. polymorpha* Och1 protein; CaOch1p: Candida albicans Och1 protein; PpOch1p: Pichia pastoris Och1 protein; ScOch1p: Saccharomyces cerevisiae Och1 protein; and SpOch1p: Schizosaccharomyces pombe Och1 protein), wherein

parenthesized numerals indicate amino acid identity between H. polymorpha HpOch2p and Och1p analogues of other yeast strains;

Fig. 3 is a diagram for inducing disruption of the *H.* polymorpha *HpOCH2* gene by in vivo DNA recombination;

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Fig. 4 shows growth properties of an H. polymorpha  $Hpoch2\triangle$  mutant strain, wherein cultures  $(OD_{600}=1)$  of a H. polymorpha wild type and two mutant strains,  $Hpoch1\triangle$  and  $Hpoch2\triangle$ , which had arrived at an exponential phase, were 10-fold serially diluted, and 3  $\mu$ l of each dilution was spotted on a YPD medium and cultured for two days (A: YPD medium at 37°C; B: YPD medium at 45°C; C: YPD medium supplemented with 40  $\mu$ g/ml hygromycine B; D: YPD medium supplemented with 0.4% sodium deoxycholate; and E: YPD medium supplemented with 7  $\mu$ g/ml Calcofluor white);

Fig. 5 shows results of HPLC analysis for size distribution and structure of sugar chains attached to glucose oxidase (GOD) expressed in an H.  $polymorpha\ Hpoch2\triangle$  mutant strain, wherein the left panel (A, B and C) and right panel (D, E and F) represent results for sugar chains attached to GOD expressed respectively in an H. polymorpha wild type and the  $Hpoch2\triangle$  mutant (A and D: sugar chain profiles attached to GOD; B and E: sugar chain profiles after treatment with  $\alpha-1,2$ -mannosidase; and C and F: sugar chain profiles after subsequent treatment with  $\alpha-1,6$ -mannosidase), and retention times of standard oligosaccharides of known size and structure are indicated by arrows (M5: Man<sub>5</sub>GlcNAc<sub>2</sub>-

PA; M6:  $Man_6GlcNAc_2-PA$ ; M8:  $Man_8GlcNAc_2-PA$ ; and M11:  $Man_{11}GlcNAc_2-PA$ );

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Fig. 6 shows results of tests for functional compensation of a S. cerevisiae ochl△ mutant by introduction of HpOCH2 gene (1: S. cerevisiae wild type transformed with a control vector YEp352GAPII; 2: S. cerevisiae och1△ mutant  $(Scoch1\Delta)$  transformed with the control vector; and 3, 4 and 5: Soch1△ mutant transformed respectively with an HpOCH1 gene expression vector YEp352GAPII-HpOCH1 (3), an HpOCH2 gene expression vector YEp352GAPII-HpOCH2 (4), and a ScOCH1 gene expression vector YEp352GAPII-ScOCH1(5)), wherein cultures (OD $_{600}$ =1) which had arrived at an exponential phase were 10-fold serially diluted, and 3  $\mu$ l of each dilution was spotted on a YPD plate and cultured at 25°C and 30°C for three days (the A of Fig. 6); and gylcosylation of invertase expressed in each transformant was detected by activity staining (the B of Fig. 6);

Fig. 7 shows results of tests for measuring  $\alpha$ -1,6-mannosyltransferase activity of HpOch2 protein, wherein a S. cerevisiae  $och1 \triangle mnn1 \triangle mnn4 \triangle$  mutant strain was transformed with a control vector YEp352GAPII (A), an HpOCH2 gene expression vector YEp352GAPII-HpOCH2 (B) or a Scocch1 gene expression vector YEp352GAPII-Scocch1 (C), and membrane fractions obtained from the mutant strain were reacted with Man<sub>8</sub>GlcNAc<sub>2</sub>-PA at 30°C for two hours and then analyzed by HPLC;

Fig. 8 shows results of HPLC analysis for size

distribution and structure of sugar chains attached to GOD expressed in *H. polymorpha* strains

(A and D: sugar chain profiles of GOD expressed in a secretory form respectively in a H. polymorpha wild type and an  $Hpoch2\triangle$  mutant; B and E: sugar chain profiles of GOD expressed respectively in a H. polymorpha wild type and an  $Hpoch2\triangle$  mutant which are genetically engineered to express  $\alpha-1$ ,2-mannosidase derived from  $Aspergillus\ saitoi$ ; and C and F: sugar chain profiles after treatment with  $\alpha-1$ ,2-mannosidase for sugar chains respectively from the recombinant wild type and mutant); and

Fig. 9 shows amino acid sequence identity and similarity between Ochl protein homologues of *S. cerevisiae* and *H. polymorpha*.

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## Disclosure of the Invention

#### Technical Field and Background Art

The present invention relates to a novel  ${\it Hansenula}$   ${\it polymorpha}$  gene coding for  $\alpha$ -1,6-mannosyltransferase initiating outer chain elongation, an  ${\it H. polymorpha}$  mutant strain having a deficiency in the gene, and a process for producing a recombinant glycoprotein using such a mutant strain.

Upon large-scale expression of therapeutic proteins, according to characteristics of host cells or target proteins, a target protein may vary in expression levels, water solubility, expression sites, modification, and the

like. Thus, the most suitable expression system for a target protein must be selected to establish an effective production system.

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Most therapeutic proteins are glycoprotiens where oligosaccharides are covalently bonded to asparagine residues as they pass through the endoplasmic reticulum (ER) and Golgi apparatus (Jenkins et al., Nat. Biotechnol., 14, 975-9, 1996). The structure and kind of sugar moieties greatly affect folding, biological activity and stability in serum of glycoprotiens. Thus, to date, for producing therapeutic recombinant glycoproteins having wild-type sugar moieties and therapeutic activity, the most commonly used approach is to use animal cell expression systems. However, there are drawbacks to animal cell culture systems, which include low yield, high cost due to expensive culture media, retroviral contamination, and a long period of time required for establishing stable cell lines. Thus, animal cell culture systems have limited applications in producing recombinant glycoproteins. In this regard, many attempts have been made to use, as an alternative to animal cell expression systems, yeast expression systems, which are eukaryotes and share the early steps of the N-linked glycosylation pathway of higher animal cells, to produce recombinant glycoproteins of medical importance.

Eukaryotes such as yeasts have advantages of rapidly producing high-yield proteins, utilizing sterilized and well-controlled production conditions, being easily

genetically engineered, having no risk of infections by human or animal pathogens, and ensuring easy protein recovery. However, a complete type synthesized in yeasts has a different sugar moiety from that of target organisms such as mammalians, and thus may cause immune responses in this yeast-specific outer chain animal cells. Also, glycosylation of the high mannose type, also denoted brings rise to heterogeneity of a hyperglycosylation, recombinant protein product, which may make the protein purification complicated or difficult. Further, specific activity of enzymes may be lowered due to the increased carbohydrate level (Bekkers et al., Biochem. Biophy. Acta. 1089, 345-351, 1991).

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To solve the above problems, there is a need for glycotechnology which introduces into yeasts a glycosylation pathway of animal cells capable of producing glycoproteins having identical biological activity to those derived from mammalians.

When recombinant glycoproteins are expressed in traditional yeast, Saccharomyces cerevisiae, the addition of a series of 50 to 200 mannose residues to a core oligosaccharide, resulting in hypermannosylation, and the presence of  $\alpha$ -1,3-linked terminal mannose recognizable as an antigen in the body were viewed as large constraints in employing the yeast as a host for glycoprotein production (Dean, Biochim. Biophys. Acta., 1426, 309-322, 1999; Ballou, Methods Enzymol., 185, 440-444, (1990)). By contrast, when

recombinant glycoproteins are expressed in the methylotropic yeasts, Hansenula polymorpha and Pichia pastoris, they are expressed in a hypermannosylated form compared to natural forms, but the overall length of mannose outer chains is shorter than those expressed in S. cerevisiae (Kang et al., Yeast 14, 371-381, 1998; Kim et al., Glycobioloby, in press, 2004; Bretthauer and Castellino, Biotechnol. Appl. Biochem. 193-200, 1999). In particular, since sugar chains synthesized in the methylotrophic yeasts, H. polymorpha and P. pastoris, do not contain the strongly immunogenic  $\alpha-1,3$ linked terminal mannose (Kim et al., Glycobioloby, in press, 2004; Montesino et al., Protein Expr. Purif. 14, 197-207, 1998), the methylotrophic yeasts are considered superior host systems to traditional yeast, S. cerevisiae, for the production of glycoproteins having therapeutic value in humans.

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Many attempts were made in the glycotechnology field capable of producing develop hosts therapeutic recombinant glycoproteins containing human compatible sugar chains using P. pastoris and S. cerevisiae (Chiba et al., J. Biol. Chem., 273, 26298-26304, 1998; Callewaert et al., FEBS Lett., 503, 173-178, 2001; Choi et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U S A, 100, 5022-5027, 2003; Hamilton et al., Science, 301, 1244-1246, 2003). For example, an attempt was made to produce a glycoprotein where an intermediate including the human mannose-type Man<sub>5</sub>GlcNAc<sub>2</sub> N-glycan was attached using a recombinant S. cerevisiae obtained by further genetically

manipulating a triple mutant yeast  $(och1\Delta mnn1\Delta mnn4\Delta)$  to express mammalian  $\alpha-1,2$ -mannosidase in the ER (Chiba et al., J. Biol. Chem., 273, 26298-26304, 1998). The triple mutant has disruption in three genes: OCH1 that plays a critical role in outer chain initiation (Nakanishi-Shindo et al., J. Biol. Chem. 268, 26338-26345, 1993; US Patent 5,705,616; US Patent 5,798,226); MNN1 that mediates addition of the immunogenic  $\alpha$ -1,3-linked terminal mannose (Gopal and Ballou, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 84, 8824, (1987); US Patent 5,135,854); and MNN4 that addes phosphates to a sugar chain (Jigami and Odani, Biochim. Biophys. Acta., 1426, 335-345, In addition, according to recent studies (Choi et 1999). al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U S A, 100, 5022-5027, 2003; Hamilton et al., 301, 1244-1246, Science, 2003), developments in P. pastoris were made to produce recombinant glycoproteins with the human complex-type *N*-glycan five different GlcNAc<sub>2</sub>Man<sub>3</sub>GlcNAc<sub>2</sub> by introducing derived from eukaryotes into a secretory pathway in order to introduce the human glycosylation pathway into mutant strains 07145005; (Japanese Pat. Japanese Pat. 07150780; International Pat. Publication WO 0200856 A2; International Pat. Publication WO 0200879 A2) which have a disruption in the OCH1 gene mediating outer chain initiation. However, to date, from the viewpoint of glycotechnolgy, attempts have rarely been made to produce recombinant glycoproteins with human-type sugar chains in the methylotropic yeast H. polymorpha which is gaining popularity as a host for the

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expression of therapeutic recombinant proteins since it has been employed for producing hepatitis vaccines.

As described in Korean Pat. Application No. 2002-37717, the present inventors, before the present invention, cloned OCH1 gene playing a critical role in the outer chain synthesis of H. polymorpha, establishing a mutant strain  $(Hpoch1\Delta)$  having a disrupted OCH1 gene, and developed a process for producing a recombinant glycoprotein with a sugar chain structure closer to a natural form by preventing hyperglycosylation using such a mutant. However, in the  $Hpoch1\Delta$  mutant strain having a disruption in the OCH1 gene outer chain glycosylation is H.polymorpha, Thus, there is a need initiated by  $\alpha-1,6$ -mannose linkage. finding coding for  $\alpha - 1.6$ for the of gene mannosyltransferase and prevention of the above human incompatible glycosylation pathway.

#### Technical Problem

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With an aim to overcome the above problems and develop a production system for a recombinant glycoprotein having therapeutic value in humans using a methylotrophic, thermotolerant yeast Hansenula polymorpha that is widely used as a host system for mass expression of various heterogeneous genes, the present inventors cloned a novel gene HpOCH2 in a H. polymorpha strain DL-1 based on the known genome information for H. polymorpha, identified that the novel gene has the activity of  $\alpha-1,6$ -mannosyltransferase

responsible for the outer chain initiation, and developed a mutant strain having a disruption in the above gene. Then, the present inventors found that the mutant strain prevents a human incompatible glycosylation pathway, and, when a heterogeneous sugar chain-modifying enzyme is expressed in the mutant strain, is capable of producing a recombinant glycoprotein with a human mannose-type N-glycan Man<sub>5</sub>GlcNAc<sub>2</sub> other than a yeast-specific N-glycan, thereby leading to the present invention.

#### 10 Best Mode for Carrying Out the Invention

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In eukaryotes, protein N-glycosylation originates in endoplasmic reticulum (ER), N-linked the where an is transferred oligosaccharide (Glc<sub>3</sub>Man<sub>9</sub>GlcNAc<sub>2</sub>) to appropriate asparagine residue of a nascent protein. From  $Glc_3Man_9GlcNAc_2$ , three glucose residues and one specific  $\alpha$ -1,2-linked mannose residue are removed by specific glucosidases and  $\alpha-1,2$ -mannosidase in the ER, resulting in the core oligosaccharide structure, Man<sub>8</sub>GlcNAc<sub>2</sub>. The protein with this core sugar structure is transported to the Golgi moiety undergoes apparatus where the sugar modifications by various specific enzymes. In yeasts, the modification of the sugar chain in the Golgi apparatus involves a series of additions of mannose residues by different mannosyltransferases. The structure of the outer chain glycosylation is specific to the organisms, typically with more than 50 mannose residues in S. cerevisiae.

The present inventors cloned an HpOCH2 gene in a H. polymorpha strain DL-1 based on the known genome information for H. polymorpha, and identified that the above gene has the activity of  $\alpha$ -1,6-mannosyltransferase responsible for the outer chain initiation. The identified gene has a nucleotide sequence designated as SEQ ID NO. 1, and its corresponding amino acid sequence is designated as SEQ ID NO. 2.

In one aspect, the present invention provides a DNA gene coding for a protein designated as SEQ ID NO. 2. In addition, the present invention provides a DNA gene coding for a protein having a 75% or higher homology with the former DNA and coding for a protein with  $\alpha$ -1,6-mannosyltransferase enzyme activity. Preferably, the present invention provides a gene having a DNA sequence designated as SEQ ID NO. 1, an analogue thereof or a fragment thereof.

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The term "homology", as used for  $\alpha - 1.6$ mannosyltransferase gene derived from H. polymorpha in the present invention, is intended to indicate the degree of similarity to the nucleotide sequence of a wild type, and includes a DNA sequence having an identity of preferably 75% or higher, more preferably 85% or higher, and most preferably higher, with a DNA sequence coding for  $\alpha-1.6$ homology comparison may be mannosyltransferase. This performed manually or by using a commercially available A commercially available computer comparison program. program may express homology between two or more sequences as a percentage, and a homology (%) may be calculated for

adjacent sequences.

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The present inventors registered the above gene at GenBank under accession number AY502025, and deposited a recombinant vector containing the gene, pBS-HpOCH2/Escherichia coli DH5 $\alpha$ , at KCTC (Korean Collection for Type Cultures; KRIBB, 52, Oun-dong, Yusong-ku, Taejon, Korea) on January 15, 2004, under accession number KCTC 10583BP.

aspect, in another the present invention provides a recombinant vector comprising a gene which is DNA coding for a protein designated as SEQ ID NO. 2 or DNA having a 90% or higher homology with the former DNA and coding for protein with  $\alpha$ -1,6-mannosyltransferase а activity. The recombinant vector preferably comprises a DNA gene designated as SEQ ID NO. 1. In a further aspect, the present invention provides a host cell transformed with the recombinant vector, and preferably, provides a transformed host cell deposited under accession number KCTC 10583BP.

To produce a glycoprotien having a mammalian-type sugar chain in a yeast, a mutant strain yeast should be established, which lacks an enzyme family involved in yeast outer chain biosynthesis. Such a mutant strain may be attained by genetic mutation such as use of a reagent, ultraviolet illumination or spontaneous mutation, or by artificially disrupting a target gene. In the present invention, a gene (Och2) encoding  $\alpha$ -1,6-mannosyltransferase playing a critical role in the outer chain initiation is disrupted by genetic engineering methods, that is, a

combination of polymerase chain reaction and in vivo DNA recombination.

The present inventors established Hansenula polymorpha Hpoch2△ mutant strain (Hansenula polymorpha DL-1 och $2\triangle$ ) in which a  $\alpha$ -1,6-mannosyltransferase gene identified as described above is deficient, and found that yeastspecific consecutive addition of  $\alpha-1,6$ -mannose residues is prevented in the mutant strain, so that hyperglycosylation is remarkably reduced. The mutant strain was deposited at KCTC (Korean Collection for Type Cultures; KRIBB, 52, Oun-dong, Taejon, 15, 2004, Korea) on January accession number KCTC 10584BP.

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Thus, in yet another aspect, the present invention provides a Hansenula polymorpha  $Hpoch2\triangle$  mutant strain (Hansenula polymorpha DL-1 och2 $\triangle$ ) deposited under accession number KCTC 10584BP.

The majority of N-glycans on glycoproteins transported from the ER have a MangGlcNAc2 sugar chain structure. After a protein is transported to the Golgi apparatus from the ER, additional mannose residues are added to the protein by different mannosyltransferases, resulting in a glycoprotien having numerous mannose sugar chains. The hyperglycosylation is undesirable recombinant glycoproteins. Such hyperglycosylation may be reduced by using the H. polymorpha mutant strain prepared in the present invention as a host cell for the expression of recombinant proteins. In addition, when the H. polymorpha

mutant strain is transformed with an expression vector capable of expressing one or more proteins having an enzymatic activity involved in sugar chain modifications, the hyperglycosylation may be more effectively inhibited or be converted to a sugar chain with a different structure. Sugar chain-modifying enzymes involved in such hyperglycosylation include  $\alpha-1.2$ -mannosidase, reduction mannosidase mannosidase IB, mannosidase IC, mannosidase II, N-acetyl glucosaminyltransferase I, N-acetyl glucosaminyltransferase II, galactosyltransferase, sialyltransferase, and fucosyltransferase. However, the present invention is not limited to the above examples, and various genes capable of leading to a reduction and modification in hyperglycosylation of a recombinant glycoprotein may be also used. embodiment of the present invention, when  $\alpha-1,2$ -mannosidase was expressed in the H. polymorpha Hpoch2△ mutant strain, a recombinant glycoprotein on which a yeast-type N-glycan was prevented from being formed and modified to a human-type Nglycan was produced.  $\alpha$ -1,2-mannosidase removes a  $\alpha$ -1,2linked mannose residue at non-reduced terminal Man<sub>8</sub>GlcNAc<sub>2</sub> and converts а core sugar chain on glycoprotein to Man<sub>5</sub>GlcNAc<sub>2</sub>. The Man<sub>5</sub>GlcNAc<sub>2</sub> structure is an inferior substrate for Golgi-residing mannosyltransferases, leading to a glycoprotein having reduced mannose content. The sugar chain-modifying enzyme gene contained in the expression vector used in the transformation may be the whole gene sequence encoding such an enzyme or a fragment sequence

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encoding a functional region of the enzyme. The expression vector includes an integrative or inductive promoter and a 3' termination sequence, and may be an integrative or replicative vector.

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Thus, in still another aspect, the present invention provides a H. polymorpha mutant strain further comprising an expression vector expressing a sugar chain-modifying enzyme. Preferably, the sugar chain-modifying enzyme is selected from the group consisting of  $\alpha$ -1,2-mannosidase, mannosidase IA, mannosidase IB, mannosidase IC, mannosidase II, N-acetyl glucosaminyltransferase II, N-acetyl glucosaminyltransferase II, galactosyltransferase, sialyltransferase, and fucosyltransferase.

In still another aspect, the present invention provides a process for producing a recombinant glycoprotein with reduced glycosylation using an *H. polymorpha* mutant strain deposited under accession number KCTC 10584BP.

According to the present process as described above, a recombinant glycoprotein may be produced in a manner such that formation of a yeast-type N-glycan is prevented and the yeast-type N-glycan is modified to a human-type N-glycan.

The term "glycoprotein", as used herein, refers to a protein that is glycosylated on one or more asparagines, or one or more serine or threonine residues, or is glycosylated on asparagine and serine or threonine residues when expressed in a methylotropic yeast, particularly Hansenula polymorpha. The term "reduced glycosylation", as used herein, means that,

when a glycoprotein is expressed in a methylotropic yeast strain, it has a reduced size of a carbohydrate moiety, particularly lower mannose residues, in comparison with the case of being expressed in a wild-type methylotropic yeast.

In the above process, a glycoprotein expression vector introduced into the *Hansenula polymorpha Hpcho2* $\triangle$  mutant strain preferably expresses a sugar chain-modifying enzyme such as  $\alpha$ -1,2-mannosidase along with glycoprotein.

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A produced glycoprotein may be purified by a method commonly used in the art, and a purification protocol may be determined according to the properties of a specific protein to be purified. This determination is considered an ordinary skill to those skilled in the art. For example, a target protein may be purified by a typical isolation technique, such as precipitation, immunoadsorption, fractionization or various chromatographic methods.

Glycoproteins capable of being produced according to the present invention are exemplified by cytokines (e.g., interferon- $\alpha$ , interferon- $\beta$ , interferon- $\gamma$ , G-CSF, clotting factors (e.g., VIII factor, IX factor, human protein C), endothelial growth factor, growth hormone releasing factor, Penicillium minioluteum dextranase, Bacillus amyloliquefaciens α-amylase, Saccharomyces cerevisiae aspartic protease, Saccharomyces cerevisiae invertase, Typanosoma cruzi trans-sialidase, HIV envelope protein, influenza virus A haemagglutinin, influenza neuraminidase, bovine enterokinase activator, bovine herpes virus type-1

glycoprotein D, human angiostatin, human B7-1, B7-2 and B-7 receptor CTLA-4, human tissue factor, growth factors (e.g., platelet-derived growth factor), human  $\alpha$ -antitrypsin, human erythropoietin, tissue plasminogen activator, plasminogen activator inhibitor-1, urokinase,  $\alpha$ -galactosidase, plasminogen, thrombin, and immunoglobulins.

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In still another aspect, the present invention provides a glycoprotein produced by the above process.

A better understanding of the present invention may be obtained through the following examples which are set forth to illustrate, but are not to be construed as the limit of the present invention.

EXAMPLE 1: Identification of Hansenula polymorpha HpOCH2 gene and analysis of the amino acid sequence of the gene

From the recently completed sequence of Hansenula polymorpha RB11 genome (Ramezani-Rad et al., FEMS Yeast Res., 4, 207-215 (2003)), whole sequences of ORFs (open reading frames) having a high similarity with the OCH1 gene family involved in outer chain biosynthesis of Saccharomyces cerevisiae were obtained. Fig. 9 shows amino acid sequence identity and similarity between Och1 protein homologues of H. polymorpha and S. cerevisiae, wherein the amino acid sequence identity and similarity between ORF168 and ScOchlp are represented by shaded bold numerals.

In the present invention, for functional analysis of

the ORF168 gene having a 40% amino acid identity and a 54% amino acid similarity with S. cerevisiae OCH1 gene (ScOCH1) (Jungman and Munro, Embo J. 17, 423 (1998)) that plays a critical role in  $\alpha$ -1,6-mannose addition at the early stage of outer chain biosynthesis of S. cerevisiae, polymerase chain reaction (PCR) was carried out using DNA extracted from Hansenula polymorpha DL-1 (Levine and Cooney, Appl. Microbiol., 26, 982-990, (1973)) as a template and a pair of primers (168Not-N and 168Not-C; Table 1). As a result, a 1.35-kb DNA fragment containing the ORF168 was obtained, and was then subjected to amino acid sequencing.

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conventionally identified H.polymorpha described in Korean Pat. Application No. 2002-37717 applied by the present inventors has an amino acid sequence having a 22% identity and a 36% similarity with S. cerevisiae OCH1 gene and is thus designated as HpOCH1. In this regard, the ORF168 identified in this invention was designated as HpOCH2, and its nucleotide sequence was registered at GenBank under accession number AY502025. HpOCH2 was 1287 bp long and expected to code for a protein consisting of 428 amino acids. HpOch2 protein had a potential transmembrane spanning region at a region from 29 to 51 positions, and was thus considered type IImembrane protein which as to glycosyltransferases belong (Fig. 1). Also, HpOch2 protein was observed to have a DXD element known as an active site of glycosyltransferases (Lussier et al., J. Cell. Biol., 131, 913-927, (1995)),and was thus expected to have

glycosyltransferase activity (Fig. 1). The amino acid sequence of HpOch2 protein was found to have a relatively high similarity with, in addition to a *S. cerevisiae OCH1* gene product, *OCH1* gene products of other yeasts, that is, *Candida abicans*: Thomas et al., unpublished results, GenBank accession number AY064420), *Pichia pastoris*: Japanese Pat. 07145005), *Schizosaccharomyces pombe*: Yoko-o et al., FEBS Lett., 489, 75-80, (2001)) (Fig. 2).

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EXAMPLE 2: Establishment of *H. polymorpha HpOCH2* gene-10 deficient strain and analysis of characteristics of the strain

To establish a H. polymorpha HpOCH2 gene-deficient mutant strain, gene disruption was performed by a combination of fusion PCR and in vivo DNA recombination (Oldenburg et al., Nucleic Acid Res., 25, 451, (1997)). Fusion PCR was carried out using primers (primers used for PCR for cloning and disruption of HpOCH2 gene) listed in Table 1, below. By primary PCR, 5' and 3' regions of URA3 gene and HpOCH2 gene were obtained. By secondary fusion PCR, the 5' region of HpOCH2 gene was linked to the 5' region of URA3 gene, and the 3' region of URA3 gene was liked to the 3' region of HpOCH2 Then, the two DNA fragments were introduced into a gene. yeast cell, and transformants having an HpOCH2 gene disrupted by in vivo DNA recombination were selected (Fig. 3). Primarily, using an URA3 selection marker, transformants

grown in a minimum medium lacking uracil were selected. Then, amplified DNA fragments produced by PCR were examined to determine whether they differ from those of a wild-type strain, thereby selecting a H. polymorpha mutant strain having a different amplification pattern, Hpoch2△ (leu2 och1::URA3). The obtained  $Hpoch2\triangle$  strain was evaluated for growth properties. The Hpoch2△ strain was found to have temperature sensitivity at 45°C like a Hpoch1△ strain (KCTC 10264BP), but, unlike the  $Hpoch1\triangle$  strain, had a similar growth rate to the wild type at 37°C. Also, growth was greatly inhibited in the presence of hygromycin B, and little sensitivity to sodium deoxycholate was observed (Fig. 4). Since these growth properties are common in mutant strains having a defect in outer chain synthesis, the H. polymorpha  ${\it Hpoch2} \triangle$  strain was believed to have a defect in the outer chain glycosylation process.

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TABLE 1

Primer	Sequences	SEQ ID.				
168Not-N	5'-AAGGAAAAAAGCGGCCGCCGGTGAAGAATGGTGTAT-3'	3				
168Not-C	5'-TTTTCCTTTTGCGGCCGCCGTTCTGTGCCTGCTCATGAT-3'	4				
UNfor	5'-GGATCCCCGGGTACCGAGCT-3'a 5'-CACCGGTAGCTAATGATCCC-3'					
UNrew						
UCfor	5'-CGAACATCCAAGTGGGCCGA-3'	7				
UCrew	5'-CTGGCGAAAGGGGGATGTGC-3'b	8				
168Nfor	5'-GGCGGATATGGGGCTTCGCC-3'	9				
168Nrew	rew 5'-AGCTCGGTACCCGGGGATCCCGTTCCAGGGCTCCACGTCC-3'C					
168Cfor	3Cfor 5'-GCACATCCCCCTTTCGCCAGCCGATCACGAGCTTCAGTCC-3'd					

ı	168Crew	5'-CGTCGTCCGGGCCCAGTTCG-3'	12	

EXAMPLE 3: Analysis of size distribution and structure of sugar chains on a glycoprotein synthesized in the H. polymorpha  $Hpoch2\triangle$  mutant

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To analyze the size distribution and structure of sugar chains on glycoprotein synthesized in the H.polymorpha Hpoch $2\Delta$  mutant prepared in Example 2, a glycoprotein derived from Aspergillus niger, glucose oxidase (GOD), was expressed in a secreted form in a H. polymorpha wild type and the  $Hpoch2\triangle$  mutant. The glycoprotein, GOD, eight putative amino acid sequences for N-linked has glycosylation (Frederick et al., J. Biol.Chem., 265, 3793 (1990). The *H. polymorpha* wild type and *Hpoch2*△ mutant were individually transformed with an expression vector pDLMOX-GOD(H) expressing GOD with a six-histidine tag (Kim et al., Glycobiology (2004)), and were grown in YPM medium (1% yeast extract, 2% peptone, 2% methanol) supplemented with 2% methanol to express GOD. GOD secreted to the culture medium was passed through a nickel column to selectively isolate only GOD tagged with six histidines at the C-terminal region. The isolated recombinant his-tagged GOD was treated with PNGase F to detach attached sugar chains from the GOD. Then, the released sugar chains were labelled with 2-aminopyridine (2-PA) and subjected to HPLC analysis. As shown in the A and D of Fig. 5, sugar chains of wild type-derived recombinant

GOD were found to have various size distributions ranging from 8 to 12 mannose residues. In contrast, sugar chains attached to recombinant GOD expressed in the Hpoch2△ mutant were found to mostly have core sugar chains with 8 mannose These results indicate that sugar addition after the eighth mannose residue is greatly inhibited in the  $Hpoch2\triangle$  mutant. Separately, the sugar chains released from treated sequentially by  $\alpha-1,2$ recombinant GOD were mannosidase and  $\alpha-1$ , 6-mannosidase to investigate changes in a sugar chain profile. Sugar chains synthesized by the wild type were converted to sugar chains corresponding to five or six mannose, and all of them were then converted to sugar chains corresponding to five mannose by  $\alpha-1,6$ -mannosidase, whereas all sugar chains of the *Hpoch2*△ mutant were converted to sugar chains corresponding to five mannose by only  $\alpha-1,2$ -mannosidase (Fig. 5). These results reveal that outer chain elongation via  $\alpha-1,6$ -mannose initiation of  $Hpoch2\Delta$  mutant, occurs in the linkage never indicating that the HpOCH2 gene product is directly or indirectly involved in the activity of  $\alpha-1$ , 6-mannosidase.

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EXAMPLE 4: Functional analysis of *H. polymorpha* HpOCH2 protein

To determine whether the H. polymorpha HpOCH2 gene product is a functional homologue to S. cerevisiae Ochl protein adding  $\alpha-1,6$  mannose to a core sugar chain in the

outer chain synthesis initiation process, an expression vector carrying an HpOCH2 gene, YEp352GAPII-HpOCH2, was introduced into a mutant strain having a disruption in S. cerevisiae OCH1 gene,  $Scoch1\Delta$ , and the  $Scoch1\Delta$  mutant was evaluated for ability to overcome thermosensitivity (the A of Fig. 6). HpOCH2, HpOCH1 and ScOCH1 genes were individually inserted between glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (GAP) promoter and terminator introduced into a S. cerevisiae expression vector YEp352 (Hill et al., Yeast, 2, 163-167, (1986)), thus generating expression vectors, YEp352GAPII-HpOCH2, YEp352GAPII-HpOCH1 and YEp352GAPII-ScOCH1, s.cerevisiae Scoch1△ mutant, when respectively. The transformed with the HpOCH2 expression vector gene (YEp352GAPII-HpOCH2), recovered its ability to grow at high By contrast, when transformed with temperature. expression vector (YEp352GAPII-HpOCH1) carrying HpOCH1 gene having a nucleotide sequence similarity to HpOCH2 gene, the Scoch1 △ mutant did not overcome thermosensitivity (the A of In addition, the Scoch1△ mutant was evaluated for another feature of having a defect in hyperglycosylation. When the HpOCH2 expression vector was introduced into the in  $Scoch1\Delta$  mutant, as shown the В of Fig. 6, glycosylation of a glycoprotein, invertase, recovered to a level identical to that when the OCH1 expression vector (YEp352GAPII-ScOCH1) was introduced thereinto. By contrast, when the HpOCH2 expression vector was introduced into the Scoch1△ mutant, glycosylation of invertase was unchanged.

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The results, that the S. cerevisiae  $och1\triangle$  mutant overcomes thermosensitivity and recovers hyperglycosylation by the expression of H. polymorpha HpOCH2 gene, demonstrate that the HpOCH2 gene product is a functional analogue to S. cerevisiae Och1 protein playing a critical role in the first step of outer chain synthesis.

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An in vitro assay was performed to determine whether H. polymorpha HpOch2 protein practically has  $\alpha-1,6$ mannosyltransferase activity to add  $\alpha$ -1,6-mannose to a core sugar chain like the S. cerevisiae Ochl protein. strain  $(och1 \triangle mnn1 \triangle mnn4 \triangle)$  disrupted in three genes, OCH1, MNN1 and MNN4, has a complete loss of outer chain synthesis (Chiba et al., J. Biol. Chem., 273, 26298-26304, (1998)). The  $och1 \triangle mnn1 \triangle mnn4 \triangle$  mutant was transformed with the H. polymorpha HpOCH2 gene expression vector, and a membrane fraction was prepared. The membrane fraction was used as an enzyme source for measuring  $\alpha-1,6$ -mannosyltransferase and reacted with a substrate having a core sugar chain structure, Man<sub>8</sub>GlcNAc<sub>2</sub>-PA. The resulting reaction solution was analyzed by HPLC. When the  $och1 \triangle mnn1 \triangle mnn4 \triangle$  mutant was transformed with the Yep352GAPII vector not containing HpOCH2 gene, the concentration of the substrate Man<sub>8</sub>GlcNAc2-PA was not changed in membrane fraction. Ву contrast, when och1△mnn1△mnn4△ mutant was transformed respectively with the H. polymorpha HpOCH2 gene expression vector and the S. cerevisiae OCH1 gene expression vector, a peak corresponding to Man<sub>9</sub>GlcNAc<sub>2</sub>-PA (a structure formed by the addition of a

single mannose to  $Man_8GlcNAc_2-PA$ ) was observed in membrane fractions (Fig. 7). These results indicate that the H. polymorpha HpOch2 protein, like the S. cerevisiae Och1 protein, has the activity of  $\alpha-1,6$ -mannosyltransferase involved in the initiation of outer chain elongation.

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EXAMPLE 5: Glycotechnology using the  $\emph{H. polymorpha Hpoch2}\triangle$  mutant

An H. polymorpha strain capable of producing a recombinant glycoprotein having a human mannose-type Nlinked glycan was established as follows. As described in a previous study (Chiba et al., J. Biol. Chem., 273, 26298-(1998)) carried out with the traditional yeast 26304, Saccharomyces cerevisiae, the H. polymorpha  $Hpoch2\triangle$  mutant was transfected with a  $\alpha-1,2$ -mannosidase expression vector for application to H. polymorpha, pDUMOX-MsdS(HA-HDEL), in order to express Aspergillus saitoi  $\alpha-1,2$ -mannosidase in the ER of H. polymorpha, thereby developing a glycoengineered recombinant strain  $Hpoch2\triangle$ -MsdSp. To construct the  $\alpha$ -1,2mannosidase expression vector, pDUMOX-MsdS(HA-HDEL), PCR was carried out using a plasmid containing Aspergillus saitoi  $\alpha$ -1,2-mannosidase, pGAMH1 (Chiba et al., J. Biol. Chem., 273, 26298-26304, (1998)), as a template and a forward primer (5'-GGGGAATTCAAAAAAATGGTGGTCTTCAGCAAA-3': SEQ ID. NO. 13) containing an EcoRI site, and a reverse primer (5'-GGGCCATGGTCACAATTCATCATGCGCATAGTCAGGAACATCGTATGGGTATGTACTACTC

ACCCGCAC-3': SEO ID. NO. 14) containing an HA sequence for determining protein expression levels, an HDEL (His-Asp-Glu-Leu) sequence as an endoplasmic reticulum retention/retrieval tag and a NcoI site. As a result, the A. saitoi  $\alpha$ -1,2mannosidase was amplified, thus yielding a 1.5-kb fragment. The 1.5-kb fragment was digested with EcoRI and NcoI and replaced a GOD gene of a GOD expression vector pDLMOX-GOD(H) (Kim et al.. Glycobiology, in press, (2003)). Then, in the resulting GOD expression vector, an H. polymorpha LEU2 selection marker was replaced by an H. polymorpha URA3 finally yielding selection marker, thus the  $\alpha - 1.2$ mannosidase expression vector pDUMOX-MsdS(HA-HDEL). The expression of A. saitoi  $\alpha-1,2$ -mannosidase in H. polymorpha was detected by Western blotting using an anti-HA antibody (Sigma).

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To determine whether the glycoengineered H.polymorpha strain Hpoch2△-MsdSp synthesizes a human mannosetype N-glycan, the structure of sugar chains attached to GOD expressed in a secreted form was analyzed. In a recombinant strain, HpOCH2-MsdSp, transformed wild-type with heterogeneous  $\alpha$ -1,2-mannosidase, sugar chains with 8 higher mannose residues were sharply reduced, while sugar chains with 5 or 6 mannose residues were increased (the A and B of Fig. 8). In the recombinant Hpoch2△-MsdSp strain prepared by transforming the  $Hpoch2\Delta$  strain with heterogeneous  $\alpha$ -1,2-mannosidase, sugar chains with more than 7 mannose residues were reduced in comparison with the

recombinant wild-type strain HpOCH2-MsdSp (the B and E of Fig. 8). When sugar chains isolated from the recombinant wild-type strain and the Hpoch2△ mutant strain were treated with  $\alpha$ -1,2-mannosidase, the sugar chains of the *HpOCH2*-MsdSp strain were converted to sugar chains with 5 and 6 mannose residues, whereas sugar chains of the *Hpoch2△*-MsdSp strain were converted to sugar chains with 5 mannose residues by  $\alpha$ -1,2-mannosidase (the C and F of Fig. 8). These results reveal that, when the heterogeneous  $\alpha-1,2$ -mannosidase is introduced into H. polymorpha, a wild-type strain still forms yeast-specific  $\alpha$ -1,6-mannose linkage by *H. polymorpha* HpOch2 protein, thereby indicating that, to synthesize human mannose-type N-qlycans, H. polymorpha HpOCH2 gene should be essentially disrupted. Therefore, the *Hpoch2* △ mutant strain having a deficient HpOCH2 gene, developed in the present invention, is useful as a host for the production of therapeutic recombinant glycoproteins having human compatible In addition, when various sugar chainsugar chains. modifying enzymes are expressed in the  $Hpoch2\Delta$  mutant strain, they come to have various sugar moieties that are not Thus, the Hpoch2△ mutant immunogenic in the human body. strain is very useful in glycotechnology for the development of a host producing a novel glycoprotein having increased physiological activity as well as having non-immunogenic sugar moieties.

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## Advanageous Effects

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Since Hansenula polymorpha has been approved system for production of worldwide as а host mass recombinant hepatitis vaccines, recombinant proteins to be expressed in H. polymorpha have a high potential to be developed as biologics. As described in the above Examples, in the  $Hpoch2\triangle$  mutant strain having a deficiency in H. polymorpha HpOCH2 gene, developed in the present invention, the initiation of outer chain elongation is prevented, resulting in the prevention of yeast-specific consecutive  $\alpha$ -1.6-mannose addition. Thus, the H. polymorpha mutant strain can be used as a host to produce a target glycoprotein in the form of having a sugar chain structure closer to that of human glycoproteins via a secretory Also, as described above, the Hpoch2△ mutant strain becomes basis glycoengineering for а in development of various H. polymorpha strains which may be used as hosts for the mass production of recombinant glycoproteins of therapeutic value. Therefore, the present Hpoch2△ mutant strain is very useful in related industrial fields.

#### Claims

1. A gene which is DNA coding for a protein designated as SEQ ID NO. 2 or DNA having a 90% or higher homology with the former DNA and coding for a protein with  $\alpha$ -1,6-mannosyltransferase activity.

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- 2. The gene according to claim 1, wherein the gene is DNA designated as SEQ ID NO. 1.
- 3. A protein which is coded by the gene of chain 1 and has  $\alpha$ -1,6-mannosyltransferase activity.
- 10 4. A recombinant vector (designated under accession number KCTC 10583BP) comprising a DNA gene designated as SEQ ID NO. 1.
  - 5. A Hansenula polymorpha Hpoch $2\triangle$  mutant strain deposited under accession number KCTC 10584BP.
- 6. The Hansenula polymorpha Hpoch2△ mutant strain according to claim 5, comprising an expression vector for a sugar chain-modifying enzyme.
  - 7. The Hansenula polymorpha Hpoch2 $\triangle$  mutant strain according to claim 6, wherein the sugar chain-modifying enzyme is selected from the group consisting of  $\alpha$ -1,2-

mannosidase, mannosidase IA, mannosidase IB, mannosidase IC, mannosidase II, N-acetyl glucosaminyltransferase I, N-acetyl glucosaminyltransferase II, galactosyltransferase, sialyltransferase and fucosyltransferase.

- 8. A process for producing a recombinant glycoprotein with reduced glycosylation using the Hansenula polymorpha  $Hpoch2\triangle$  mutant strain according to claim 5.
  - 9. The process according to claim 8, wherein the Hansenula polymorpha Hpoch2△ mutant strain comprises an expression vector for a sugar chain-modifying enzyme.

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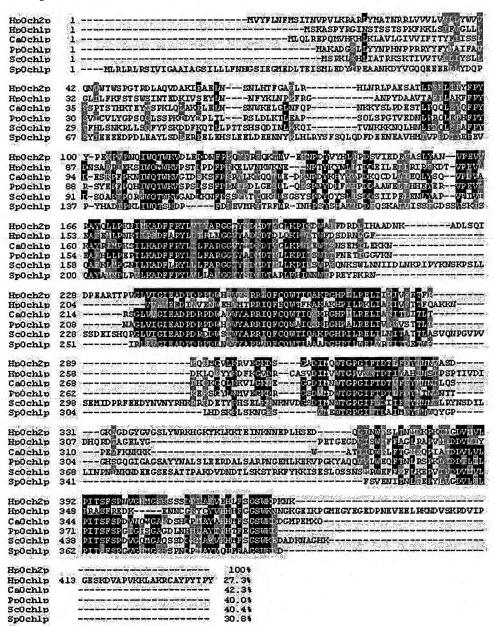
- 10. The process according to claim 8 or 9, wherein the recombinant glycoprotein is selected from the group consisting of cytokines, clotting factors, endothelial growth factor, growth hormone releasing factor, growth angiostatin, tissue plasminogen activator, factors, plasminogen activator inhibitor, urokinase, immunoglobulins, Bacillus amyloliquefaciens  $\alpha$ -amylase, Saccharomyces cerevisiae aspartic Saccharomyces cerevisiae protease, invertase, Typanosoma cruzi trans-sialidase, HIV envelope protein, haemagglutinin, enterokinase, herpes virus type-1 glycoprotein D and immuglobulin.
- 11. A glycoprotein produced by the process of claim 8 or 9.

#### Drawings

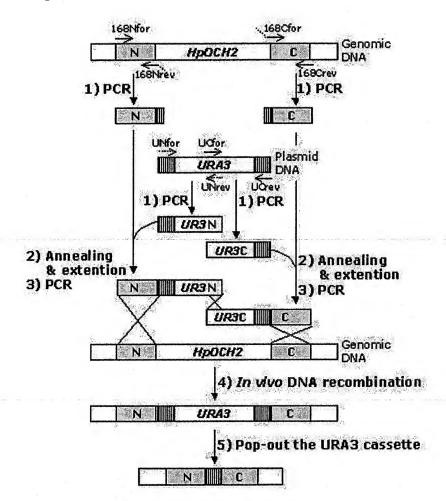
[Fig.1]

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#### [Fig.2]



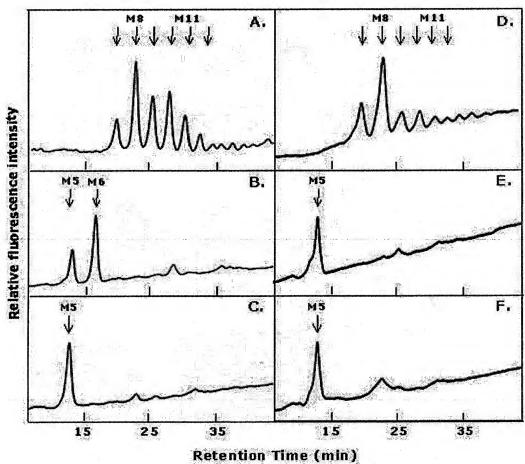
[Fig.3]



[Fig.4]

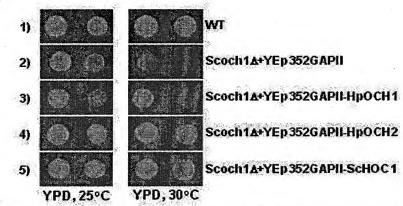
DL-1 (Wild type)		人类 化催生物
och1A.	The Printer of	
och2A	A. YPD, 37°C	B. YPD, 45°C
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	被逐步的影響	
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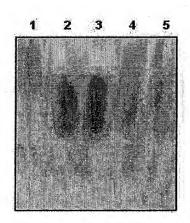


[Fig.6]

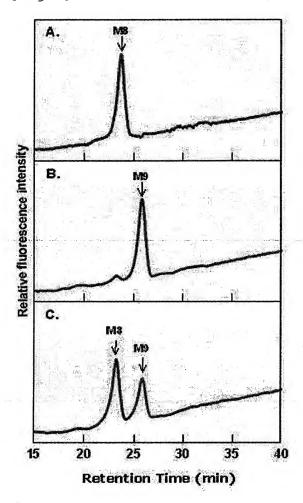
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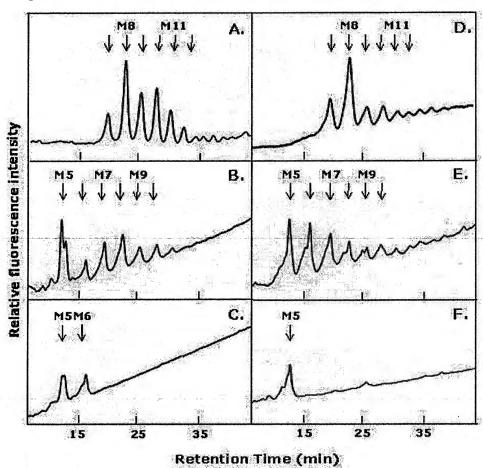
B.



[Fig.7]







[Fig.9]

	ScHoelp	Scochip	Hp Och Ip	ORF379	0 RF168	ORF288	ORF 586	ORF100	ORF576
Sc H oc lp (396 aa)		20	21	40	23	18	19	18	117
ScOchlp (480 aa)	36		22	24	377	(21)	183	17	15
Hp Ochly (435 ta)	36	36		19	22	32	32	21	19
0 RF379 (402 aa)	63.	40	34	1	28	18	21	17	16
0 RF168 (428 aa)	<b>41</b>	548	39	45		21	21	20	17
0 RF288 (414 ±a)	35	36	40	34	40		31	<b>51</b> ′	33
0 RF 58 0 (36 2 aa)	34	36	48	35	39	40	1	20	19
0 RF100 (425 aa)	34	33	37	33	36	66	38		32
0 RF 57 6 (369 aa)	30	31	33	30	32	50	33	47	1